

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 14, 2003 (Paper No. 10). Claims 32, 33, 35 and 95 are in the application, of which Claims 32 and 35 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Office Action entered rejections of all claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), primarily over U.S. Patent 5,530,232 (Taylor) in view of U.S. Patent 4,904,853 (Yokokawa) and WO 95/35534 (Combaluzier)^{1/}. With the exception of Claims 32, 33 and 35, all claims have been cancelled, and have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of their rejections. The rejections of Claims 32, 33 and 35 are respectfully traversed.

The invention concerns a smart card reader into which a smart card is insertable. The card reader has a pressure sensitive membrane through which at least textual information on a surface of an inserted smart card is visible, such that pressure directed toward the inserted smart card and exerted on the pressure sensitive membrane enables information stored in an electronic memory of the smart card to be presented.

According to one aspect of the invention, a keypad overlay is positionable over the pressure sensitive membrane. Positioning over the pressure sensitive membrane

^{1/} Applicants' copy of Combaluzier, as provided by the PTO, includes an English language translation appended thereto, the English language translation being verified by a "Robert J. Patch" on February 26, 1996. If the Examiner's copy of Combaluzier does not include a similar English language translation, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned who will be happy to provide it.

activates an alternate set of computer interpretable functions corresponding to a layout of selectable indicia or icons on the overlay. In more detailed aspects such as those shown in Claim 35, the overlay keypad is adapted for user selection of a key of the keypad to thereby select at least one of the set of computer interpretable functions.

A representative embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figure 17 and 18 of the application. As shown there, a keypad overlay 416 is positionable over pressure sensitive membrane 402 of the card reader device, such that positioning over the membrane activates switch 414 which in turn activates an alternate set of computer interpretable functions corresponding to a layout of indicia 420 on the overlay.

In entering its rejection of Claims 32 and 35, the Office Action made no mention of a positionable overlay. Even if, as asserted in the Office Action, Combaluzier shows a pressure sensitive membrane, such a pressure sensitive membrane still does not correspond to a positionable overlay as set out in the claims herein. In particular, as recited in each of Claims 32 and 35, the positionable overlay is positionable above a pressure sensitive membrane such that when so positioned, an alternate set of computer interpretable functions are activated in correspondence to a layout of selectable indicia or icons on the overlay.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the art applied against Claims 32 and 35 is deficient and cannot sustain a rejection under § 103(a). Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims are therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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